



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## February 2017

*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. Matt. 20:28*

The energetic college student stands by your table and says, “My name is Ralph, and I’ll be your server!” What do you expect Ralph to bring you? What *you* want to eat and drink? Or what *he* wants you to eat and drink? If he brings you the latter, Ralph won’t get much of a tip, will he?

Like people of every age, you and I are tempted to wish that Jesus would stand by our side, introduce Himself as our server, and ask us what He can bring us. If He were to do that, what would we ask Jesus to bring us? Job security? A retirement plan that won’t run out of money? A vehicle that starts each morning? Better grades?

We thank God that His Servant, Jesus, does *not* pop into our lives every so often to tell us He’ll give us what *we* desire. Why? Because we’d most often ask for that which doesn’t last, isn’t good for us, and gets in the way of our life lived for Him.

We thank God that His Servant and our Savior, Jesus, came to our world to give us what we need! Jesus didn’t arrive on earth to demand, “You lowly, sinful human beings are My servants! Bring Me a hot meal, cold water, and comfortable clothes!” Jesus came to earth as God’s Servant and our Savior to serve us lowly, sinful humans by giving us what we need: His life as the only ransom price His Father accepts for each sinner. Jesus came to earth to deliver what we can’t live without spiritually or eternally: His holiness and His sacrifice in our place.

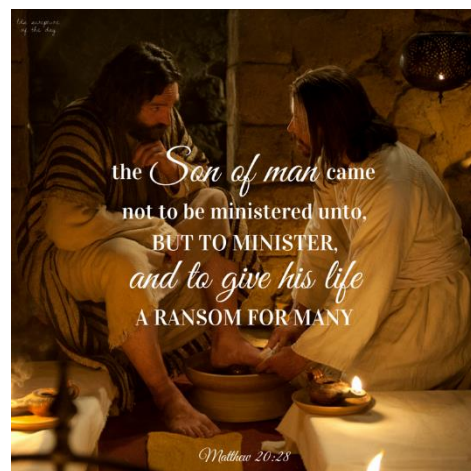
I know. You’ve heard all that before. A part of us longs for the pastor, the church, the school to come up with something new and improved to say, to preach, to teach, to hear, to write, to trust. Our selfish sinful nature grumbles when it doesn’t get what feeds its earth-centered thinking and existence.

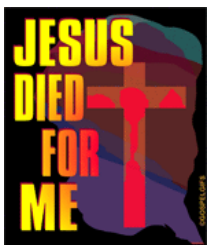
But the message of Jesus serving us sinners with thirty-three years of perfect obedience to His own laws and with His suffering hell at the cross fully for every sin is what we need every day. Are you getting it every day? If you aren’t, watch for the arrival of the next issue of *Meditations*—and when you pick up your copy from church, use its devotions daily at home. If you aren’t, clear your schedule for the first morning of every week—and hear the spiritually-renewing message with fellow believers in God’s house. If you aren’t, keep the things that don’t last further down your life’s priorities and put the good news about Jesus at the very top of your personal and family priorities. Already now, in these last days of January or first days of February, schedule time to receive more of that spiritual food in the midweek Lent services that begin March 1.

Given the depressing news in newspapers and on broadcasts, maybe we’ve wished God would work some miracles in our world the way He did in Biblical times. He does! He comes to us daily to serve us with His Gospel! What a miracle! And His Gospel builds up faith in us sinners who, by nature, want to run away from the Savior! What a miracle!

We know what we need and where to get it. We are best served when Jesus gives us life in His Gospel.

*Pastor Voss*



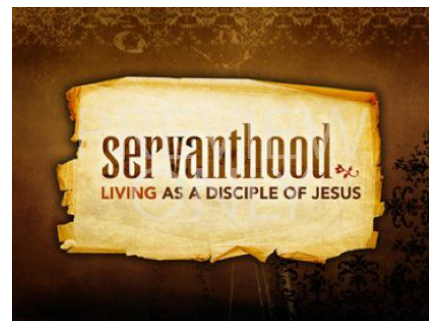


**THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S** path to His crucifixion begins *Ash Wednesday, March 1. Lent services, which begin that evening, will be held each Wednesday at 7:00.*

Join us to praise God for the gift of salvation won by our Savior for us sinners in His life, death, and resurrection. Area WELS pastors are conducting the services.

**OUTREACH MATERIALS** The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship reminds members that we have copies of the **WELS DVDs** "*Road to Emmaus*", "*Come, Follow Me*", and "*My Son, My Savior*" are available for purchase (\$3 per copy; 2 for \$5).

Consider purchasing copies for your family and friends to show them why the work of the Savior is needed by every sinner. *Any, or all, of these videos would be a great way to invite them to our special Lent services that begin March 1 and to the Holy Week services April 9, 13, 14, and 16.*



**GRAYCE** will hold its next meetings on *Tuesday, January 31 at 11:30*, and then on *Tuesday, February 28*.

The January 31 meeting will begin with a potluck meal. After we eat, we'll assemble the items donated for a Lansing-area shelter, then play euchre. Join us! Please bring a dish for the food table.



**THE VOICE CHOIR** will resume rehearsals on *February 23*. Rehearsals will be held *Thursday evenings at 7:30*. We will distribute and practice music to sing in mid-March and for our Holy Week services.

We hope that new choir voices will join us! Any communicant member is welcome to sing with us.

**WHEN FILLING OUT** your thankoffering envelope, please be aware of the following:

- You *don't* need to write your name on the line provided. The identifying number in the upper corner is all that our financial secretary needs.

- We ask that you *do* list the amount placed inside the envelope on the line provided for that purpose. This information is needed by our financial secretary. If you do not list it, the counters will write it in when opening the envelope.

Some members are uneasy about others seeing the amount written on the envelope as the offering plate moves across the pews. *We suggest putting the envelope in the plate face down. That will allow you to provide the information needed by our financemen, yet keep your offering amount confidential.*

**THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2017** is posted on the bulletin board.

You are invited to sign up to place flowers on the altar for any open Sundays. If someone has already signed up for a Sunday, or Sundays, for which you also desire to sign up for flowers, please speak with the other family/member to work out a suitable arrangement. You are invited also to indicate on the flower chart the occasion for which the flowers are being donated.

If you have questions about how to use the chart or order flowers to be presented here in church, please speak to Pastor Voss.

**NO SCHOOL DATES IN FEBRUARY** Please note that there are two no school days in February on the school year calendar: *Monday, February 13* (Pastor-Teacher Conference), and *Monday, February 20* (Presidents' Day).

## **CATECHISM CLASS SCHEDULE**

Parents of our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, please remember the following change for our classes in February ...

***Thursday, February 16*** (due to Pastor Voss being at conference earlier that week).

The class ***will*** meet Monday, February 20 even though many schools will be closed for Presidents' Day.

**WELS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT** will be held ***March 31 - April 2*** at the Double Tree Hotel – Riverfront in Bay City. You may register online at [www.tcwr.org](http://www.tcwr.org).

**COLLEGE STUDENTS**, please submit your campus address, phone number, and e-mail address to Pastor Voss. If he has your e-mail address, he would be happy to send a copy of week's sermon to you electronically.

Even if you have previously submitted a college e-mail address to Pastor Voss, please do so once again so that we can be sure to have up-to-date information. Pastor Voss' e-mail address is [revdavoss@gmail.com](mailto:revdavoss@gmail.com).

We wish you God's richest blessings on your studies!

**IF YOU HAVE ACCESS** to the internet and get this *Memorial Messenger* that way, please let us know and we will no longer print a copy for you.

**FORWARD IN CHRIST** - If you wish to renew your subscription to *Forward in Christ*, our Synod's magazine, or order a new subscription, you may use the envelope in your 2017 envelope packet that is marked for this purpose.

Subscription price will be ***\$11.50*** for this year, provided that enough families subscribe and we can take advantage of that bulk subscription rate. That price covers twelve monthly issues. If you subscribe through the congregation, your issue will be mailed to the church and placed in your box in the narthex.

*Forward In Christ* is an excellent periodical! It contains Bible studies, articles about how our Savior's love for us has affected people's lives, news from our Synod and religious information from around the world, and a number of other features. If you would like to see a few issues to get an idea of what the magazine is like, speak to Pastor Voss.

Please use your offering packet envelope for *Forward in Christ* (or a plain envelope labeled "*Forward in Christ*"), be sure to put your name on the envelope, fill it with a check for ***\$11.50*** made out to ***Memorial Lutheran Church***, and give it to Pastor Voss. Please do so by ***February 5!***



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** - Our group will meet Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> to finish work on the church library, sign up to volunteer for what we do at church, go over our 2017 yearly planner, and designate where our mission offerings will go.

We thank those who helped with mission offerings by purchasing items from our table this past November and December.

We always look for more women to join us. We serve the Lord through our projects and have so much fun as we meet together. Even if you can't come regularly, consider coming when you can.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS**

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – The mother of two students in our preschool and I intend to begin meeting at school one morning each week as she finds out more about the teachings of God's Word and the confessions of our congregation and synod. Another mother of school students may be interested in joining us for these Adult

Instruction Class sessions.

WELS congregations continue to submit the figure for their 2017 WELS Congregation Mission Offering (CMO) commitment, with a deadline of February 3 this year. The WELS Synodical Council (SC) will meet later in February. The SC, based on what WELS congregations have submitted for 2017 CMO commitments, will decide at that meeting if adjustments need to be made for the balance of this fiscal year's budget, and will use those commitments as they recommend to the summer 2017 WELS Convention delegates a budget for the next two fiscal years.

I have submitted our 2017 CMO subscription of \$0 to WELS. Added to that submission was the explanation to the representative who gathers those figures for Michigan District congregations that there will likely be special offerings to WELS by members of our congregation during 2017.

I'll evaluate with the Board of Elders, after we've done so for a little more than one month, the service synopsis now being given by the pastor after the pre-service music and before the singing of the first hymn.

What I hope the synopsis does *not* lead to is the idea that only when the pastor begins those comments is it time to prepare for worship. We continue to strive for maintaining a pre-service atmosphere in the church sanctuary that is conducive for personal meditation and worship preparations.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – Preschool enrollment is at 10. This is up two from the prior month; one re-enrollment and one new enrollment. Kindergarten is at 2 and grades 1-5 have 11 students.

We discussed possible tuition increase for the upcoming school year. We will communicate to the current parents at a meeting February 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Board of Christian Education has organized as follows for 2017: Howard Clark-chairman, Dave Fortin-secretary, and Norm Schlicker-chairman of the PTO.

We discussed targeted Facebook marketing for young families. Laurie Voss will research this.

Preliminary work was done on the calendar for the 2017-2018 school year.

We discussed at what point we would close school due to multiple students' absences because of illness.

The board thanks Laurie Voss for doing student picture retakes.

The board thanks our Sunday School teachers for providing lunch to the children and their family members after the first Saturday Christmas Eve service rehearsal.

The board thanks the members who provided children with a gift on Christmas Eve.

We discussed the dates for VBS for this summer. We are looking at the feasibility of Monday, June 26 through Thursday, June 29 – one month earlier than normal, and a 4-day VBS if it is held close to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership of Samantha Loeffler to Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church in Midland, Michigan.

We organized for 2017 as follows: Rex Hannelwald-chairman, Bob Briggs-secretary and head usher is a vacant position.

The monies received during our annual December door offering have been sent to Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – We organized the board as follows for 2017: Joe Janecke-chairman and Jason Leitz-secretary.

Our office secretary has worked with our website provider to set it up to view our web site's analytics, allowing us to see how many hits the various web site links receive.

A community dinner will be happening sometime this winter.

We thank everyone who hosted and helped with the Advent suppers.

The WELS Connection has been renewed for 2017.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – Our board thanks Bruce Painter for his service on our board.

Many items have been looked at for service: parsonage garage door, heating in the upper grade classroom, doors at the school, along with general maintenance.

David Dawley updated our board with water testing, informed us of a 6 year test that was just completed, cost was more than anticipated for the budget, almost \$500.00.





## BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL -

**FROM OUR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ROOMS:** For our Bible lessons we have been learning about the stories that Jesus used to teach people lessons. Recently we have heard about the great banquet and the wayward son. We have learned from these lessons that God loves us no matter how sinful we are. When we repent of our sins and come back to Him after going astray He gladly welcomes us back into His loving arms.

Math has been fun with working on matching items together such as mittens, and snowmen. We have also been working with our letters E, F, H, I J and K. Threes have been working on letters I,T, and C.

We have been learning about water going from liquid to solid. We put an ice cube tray outside our door to see if it would freeze but it's been too warm for it to actually happen yet! ☺

The kindergartners have unfortunately been sick for most of January and are just now getting back into the groove of things. We are learning the letter F, and E this month. In math we are learning more about adding and time. In science we have started a unit on learning more about our bodies.

In February we have a trip to the MSU rodeo to look forward to, and we plan to do some fun rodeo themed centers in the classroom to enhance the experience!

Please keep the students and their families in your prayers that they may remain healthy! ☺

God bless you all and may He keep you happy and healthy this winter!!!

**FROM OUR GRADES 1-5 ROOM:** The past month grades 1-5 have been studying the parables our Lord Jesus taught. In them we are reminded about who the Savior is, why He came, and how He wants us to live. What joy as we hear of His love! What joy as He teaches us how to live! What joy as He forgives and teaches us how to forgive!

Grades 3-5 have completed a social studies chapter on slavery and the Civil War; especially how they impacted Michigan. It was interesting to note that of the 90,000 men who went to war from Michigan, 4,100 died from actual battle, and over 10,000 died from disease!

We have enjoyed dress up and fun activity days on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in January. Special fun ones were the color days, pajama day, and mismatched clothes day.

Grades 3-5 also made bread last month as part of our science unit. We used the amount of yeast as our independent variable as we experimented with bread recipes. It was both an informative and delicious experiment!



*Serve the Lord  
with gladness!*

### **SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR FEBRUARY SERVICES:**

<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>			
2/05 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#3 J. Janecke	T. Wood	D&T Wood	N. Russell
2/12 - #7 D. Kasischke	#4 B. Grinnell	D. Steiner	V&J Domke	J&J Staffeld
2/19 - #5 S. Houser	#8 D. Rector	K. Ward	G. Withey	J&M Stiefel
2/26 - #2 V. Domke	#9 D. Fisher	J. Vogt	J&S Janecke	B&N Tobia